

REMARKS

Claims 3-10, 17-21, and 23-27, including amended claims 3-7, 9-10, and 17, and new claims 24-27 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached in Appendix A and a clean version of the pending claims, including new claims 24-27, is attached in Appendix B. No new matter has been entered.

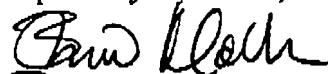
Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claims 18-21, and 23 are allowed and that claims 12-17 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 13-16 have been rewritten in independent form in new claims 24-27. Claims 3-7, and 9-10, have been amended to depend from claim 23 and claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 27. Claims 1-2, 11-16, and 22, were canceled to expedite the allowance of the present application, however, in no way should these cancellations be interpreted as an indication that the canceled claims do not define over the prior art. Applicants reserve the right to pursue those claims in a continuation application at a later date. Entry of these amendments should place the present application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all rejections and objections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Thus, this application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. If the Examiner does not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and accelerate the eventual allowance of the claims.

A fee is believed to be due for this submission, as calculated on the attached fee sheet. Should any additional fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosure

Appendix A
Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims

3. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [1] 23 wherein the first screw is a self-tapping screw.

4. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [3] 23 wherein the first screw is a self-drilling screw.

5. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [1] 23 wherein the first screw is cannulated for insertion of a guide wire to guide screw placement.

6. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [1] 23 wherein the second screw is a self-tapping screw.

7. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [1] 23 wherein the first plate hole has a substantially conical shape.

9. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [1] 23 wherein the bone plate has a trapezoidal shaped cross section in regions between the first and second plate holes for minimizing contact between bone and the bone-contacting surface.

10. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [2] 23 wherein at least one of the second plate holes is longitudinally elongated and has an edge inclined at an angle to the upper surface toward the bone-contacting surface for displacing the bone plate when engaged by the head of a second bone screw.

17. (Amended) The bone plating system of claim [15] 27 wherein the head portion is provided with suture holes.